

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 04607 091602Z
ACTION AF-10

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TO USINFO WASHDC
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UNCLAS KINSHASA 4607

STATE FOR AF/P, AF/S

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SOUTHERN AFRICA

1. BY IGNORING THE OAU AND BY DEALING ONLY WITH THE FRONT LINE COUNTRIES AND SOUTH AFRICA IN EFFORTS TO SOLVE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFLICTS, "THE U.S. AND BRITAIN SEEM TO HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THESE ISSUES INTEREST ONLY THE FRONT LINE STATES, PRETORIA, AND THEMSELVES," SAYS KINSHASA DAILY ELIMA FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL MAY 6, QUOTING OAU CHAIRMAN OMAR BONGO. THE EDITORIAL FURTHER QUOTES MR. BONGO AS COMPLAINING THAT EVER SINCE HE ASSUMED OAU PRESIDENCY, HE HAS NEVER BEEN CONTACTED BY AMERICAN U.N. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG WHO OFTEN VISITS AFRICA TO DISCUSS AFRICAN PROBLEMS. "MR. BONGO", CONTINUES EDITORIAL, "ALSO COMPLAINS ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT TRIP TO NIGERIA AND LIBERIA DURING WHICH CERTAIN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES ON ZIMBABWE WERE TAKEN WITHOUT OAU PARTICIPATION", ADDING: "IF PRESIDENT CARTER WANTED TO PROVE U.S. INTEREST IN ALL OF AFRICA, AND NOT JUST IN CERTAIN AFRICAN FRIENDS, HE WOULD HAVE MADE PLANS TO CONSULT WITH THE OAU CHAIRMAN BECAUSE THE AFRICAN ORGANIZATION CANNOT BE LEFT OUT OF DISCUSSIONS OF AFRICAN PEACE AND SECURITY PROBLEMS."

2. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH ANOTHER QUOTATION FROM PRESIDENT
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BONGO: "TO RESPECT THE OAU MEANS TO RESPECT AFRICA. NO ONE BUT AFRICA HAS THE MONOPLY OVER AFRICA'S DESTINY, AND NO ONE KNOWS AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS BETTER THAN AFRICANS THEMSELVES." ITEM.
DUMAS

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